

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

One embodiment of the present invention includes a locking apparatus for cookware with two opposing surfaces comprising a stationary sleeve with a handle positioned at the end, a stationary pin with a positioning collar, a semi-circular collar accommodating a rotation limiting latch pin and shoulder stop wherein said semi-circular collar is interlocked with said stationary pin, a round shaft accommodating lateral movement limiting rings, wherein said shaft is inserted through said stationary sleeve, and wherein said stationary sleeve is attached to one opposing cookware surface. Another embodiment of the present invention further includes the capability of the handle to be used to lift one opposing cookware surface away from the other opposing cookware surface. Another embodiment of the present invention comprises a circular collar instead of a semi-circular collar. Another embodiment of the present invention includes a return spring. Another embodiment of the present invention includes a semi-circular collar comprised of circular collar accommodating a rotation limiting latch pin and two shoulder stops, wherein one of said shoulder stop limits movement of said shaft in the counter-clockwise direction and the other said shoulder stop limits movement of said shaft in the clockwise direction. Another variation of this embodiment further consists of a handle which can rotate the range between approximately 20 degrees and 60 degrees. Another embodiment of the present invention further includes a feature wherein the locking apparatus is detachable from the cookware.